

# HUMAN INTEREST *STORY*



**July 2020**  
**Act Alliance**  
**RRF COVID**  
**06/2020**

## SCENES OF JULY 2020

- ☐ Do Not Panic – Beware, and Let's Do Prevention
- ☐ Mugiyem's Story," I would never walk alone".
- ☐ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FOJj6Kq-vw3uvvixFWChp4gpRZeSbttQ/view?usp=sharing>



# DO NOT PANIC - BEWARE, AND LET'S DO PREVENTION

---

**M**rs Jernita Sababalat (38 years old) from the Makukuet Hamlet, Matobe Village, Mentawai is a woman with a disability

. She is a mother of 3 children. When the CDRM & CDS team visited her house, she was busy serving buyers in her small stall which is supported by CDRM & CDS in 2016 to improve the economy of families with disabilities.

This family is also supported a package to prevent transmission of COVID-19 like personal hygiene tools such as buckets, soap and masks. We also interviewed her about the pandemic of Corona Virus which occurs at this moment in all over the world.

***"First, I heard about Corona Virus through TV media. More and more people were infected and died. This situation scared our family of being infected by the deadly virus."***



***We have ever heard before that there were some people have been infected in this area. We got more scared and decided not to go out because didn't want to get infected, especially the children. They are still young and of course very vulnerable.***

***Since CDRM & CDS began to facilitated health promotion through posters, banner, hand washing simulation, and supported some personal hygiene kits such as buckets, soap and masks, the fear of the corona virus getting down. It is not because the virus is no longer dangerous but through health promotion and personal hygiene kit make me and my family not worried of being infected as long as we follow CDRM&CDS' recommendations like keeping the distance, especially for people who come from outside, always wear a mask when go out of the house and wash hand after doing some activities.***

***I have a small stall, means i made lot of contact with the buyers and so do when I exchange the money with them. I advised all buyers who come to my stall to wear a mask and wash their hands with soap which is have been provided. Gratitude to CDRM & CDS , because of their supporting and assisting we know how to prevent ourselves from Corona.***

***Her husband, Mr. Muktar Saogo said the same thing. He shared his experience and said that "As the head of my family, who works as a farmer and having many outdoor activities go out , and meet many people who want to buy banana my garden. I cannot go home directly before i take a bath in the river which is located near my house. Its about twenty meters. I do it every time I go home to protect my family from dissemination of Corona Virus spread Before, we did not have hand washing in front of the house but now we have it by the support from CDRM&CDS. It makes easier for us to wash the hands every time we get back home and also for the guests who come from outside.***

***Moreover, they equipped us with masks too made us feel protected. Therefore, the scary of the corona virus decrease as our knowledge of how to prevent it increase. Thank you very much to CDRM & CDS that had share the information on how to prevent it. More communities are aware of prevention, and hope it would less likely to be infected. Thus,I am calmer now".***





CDRM&CDS also visited and interviewed an elderly woman, her name is Mrs. Ursulla (73 years old) who was also supported by hygiene kits and mask. She said ***"before , I was completely unaware of the Corona pandemic. I work as usual even I have heard from the villagers , I did not take it seriously. Then there was a prohibition to worship in the Church, but I did not get clear information that the worship in the Church is prohibited. CDRM & CDS play an very important role to give an understanding of what Corona Virus is and how to prevent it to me. Moreover, CDRM&CDS provides me some soaps, masks and buckets. Thank you very much to CDRM & CDS for giving me an understanding of Corona Virus. so that I am more alert in preventing it as taught to me "***,she said in the Mentawai language.



**I WOULD  
NEVER  
BE LEFT  
ALONE**

**Mugiyem'**  
**story**



**N**ot much has changed from Mugiyem's daily life in this pandemic.

Her routines remains the same. Starting with farming untill feeding the goat which she maintains from the “Mendo Manunggal” program. It’s one of the local church programs to improve the congregation's economy with a rowdy goat system.



She planted corn in a farm which located for about 1 km away from her house. Mugiyem did not give up even though in the previous time her cassava and rice failed to be harvested and when she planted the peanuts, the plants were completely destroyed and eaten by monkeys. Lately, she felt painful in her kness and sometimes it’s difficult to bend and forced her to stay at home, thus she cannot go to her farm.

The treatment is not that easy, to besides the funds is limited for the treatment and the transportation, she is also worried if she goes to the Community Health Center, She takes into account the spread of corona virus recently, so she decided to stay at home.

Mugiyem, who's at the beginning of July had turned into 76, lived with her only child, Due to intellectual limitations Suryani could not help Mugiyem in the farm anymore. Most of the time, she stays at home, watching videos, sweeping or washing her clothes. To her, the cleanliness and neatness are the most important things.

. "Every day I pray to God that I would never be left alone. Grateful for everything i have, including my aching knee, I am grateful," she said when YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU) team met her on that afternoon. She remembered a few years ago, the roof of her house had collapsed. Luckily no one was hurt. Mugiyem was confused and thought about how she could fix the roof of this house whereas she did not have enough money. In the next few days, her neighbors and donors from the church who heard this incident came to help and repaired the roof and renovated her cracked walls too.

Mugiyem told us that at the end of last May there were volunteers came to do a survey for the church's members who were affected by covid-19 and needed help. Mugiyem admitted that she hasn't receive any assistance at that time.

In June-July, 2020, Mugiyem was visited twice by officers from the Post Office who delivered cash with amount six hundreds thousand rupiahs (Rp.600.000,-). The cash transfer program is supported by YEU in collaboration with the local church. The program is intended for families who were affected by Covid-19,

poor and at-risk such as families with female family heads, families with disabilities, older people and those who have chronic illnesses, as well as families with more than 4 dependents.

The distribution of cash transfer was performed by The Post Office, and The officials at sub-district who visited the beneficiary's houses directly..

Mugiyem said she was happy that she did not have to come to the post office to take up the money, especially since she did the activities mostly at home so that the post officer would not face any problem when delivering cash

"I use the money for buying the daily needs such as seasonings, clothes for my daughter. Before I get this assistance, yes...I did many things I could to meet daily needs, but with this assistance, it helped me alot. Moreover, I could use the money for paying knee's injection. my knee hurts, sometimes It couldn't be bend and hurts," she said.

Mugiyem is one of 150 families who received cash-transfer assistance during this pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic indeed had impacted all members of society. However, the impact cannot be generalized because one and the other certainly have different experiences and face different situations. In order to respond to the impact of covid-19, we need to consider the different needs of each person.

It is done as an effort to support each other and convincing ourselves— according to Mrs. Mugiyem's quote and hope—*would never be left alone.*